

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 12 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

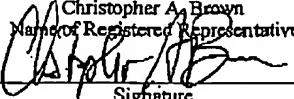
In re patent application of: )  
Richard A. Hynes ) Before the Examiner  
Serial No.: 10/099,797 ) Daniel J. Davis  
Filed: March 15, 2002 )  
SPINAL FIXATION SYSTEM AND ) Group Art Unit: 3732  
RELATED METHODS ) October 2, 2006

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 3, 2006, please consider the following. Fees sufficient for consideration of the claims herein have been previously remitted. A request for an extension of time and the fee therefor are being concurrently filed. If any additional extensions of time or fees are deemed necessary for consideration of this paper, please grant such extensions or charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include issue fees.

<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 2, 2006.</p> <p>Christopher A. Brown Name of Registered Representative  Signature</p> <p>2 October 2006 Date of Signature</p>
--

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE  
TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION  
Serial No. 10/099,797  
Atty. Dkt. No. 4002-2968  
Page 1 of 11